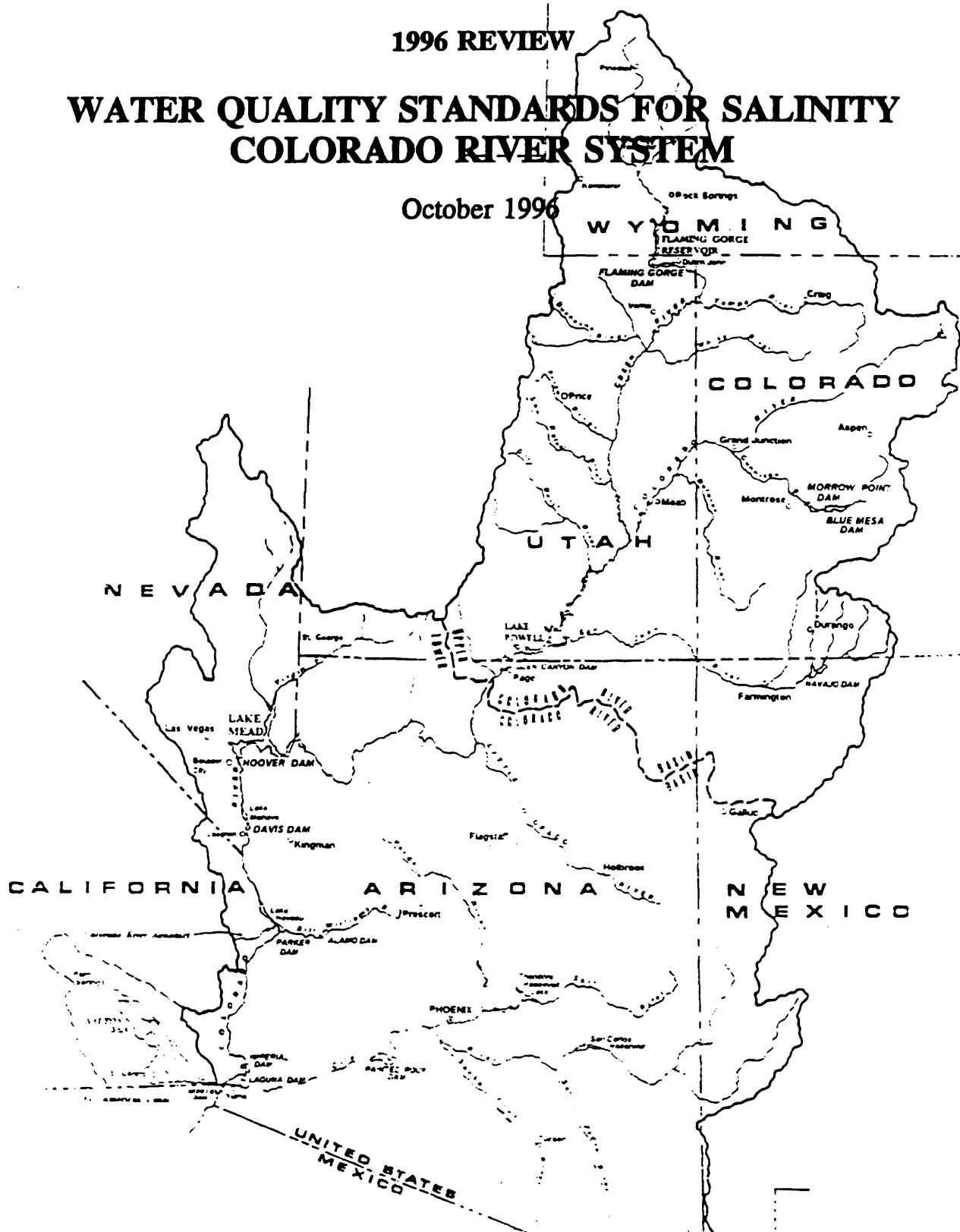


Supplemental Report
on the

1996 REVIEW

WATER QUALITY STANDARDS FOR SALINITY
COLORADO RIVER SYSTEM

October 1996



Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Forum

**Supplemental Report
on the**

1996 REVIEW

**WATER QUALITY STANDARDS FOR SALINITY
COLORADO RIVER SYSTEM**

October 1996

**Prepared by
Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Forum**

**COLORADO RIVER BASIN SALINITY CONTROL FORUM
MEMBERS**

ARIZONA

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Department of Water Resources
Wayne K. Hood III, Environmental Program Manager
Department of Environmental Quality
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Central Arizona Water Conservation District

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State Water Resources Control Board
Duane L. Georgeson, Executive Assistant to General Manager
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Department of Environmental Quality

WYOMING

Gordon W. Fassett, State Engineer
State Engineer's Office
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Division of Water Quality
Department of Environmental Quality
Dan S. Budd, Interstate Stream Commissioner

FORUM

Jack A. Barnett, Executive Director
Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Forum
106 West 500 South, Suite 101
Bountiful, Utah 84010-6232

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TRANSMITTAL LETTERS

The Federal Water Pollution Control Act requires that at least once every three years the states of the Colorado River Basin review water quality standards relating to the salinity of the waters of the Colorado River. The states collectively initiate this review under the auspices of the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Forum and prepare a proposed report and, after holding public meetings, prepare a supplemental report.

Upon the Forum's adoption of these two reports, they are transmitted to the individual states for their own independent action. The following is an example copy of the transmittal letter to the Governor of the State of Arizona. Following this letter is a listing of the Governors in each of the other six Colorado River Basin states who will receive identical letters.

December 4, 1996

Honorable Fife Symington
Governor of Arizona
Statehouse
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Dear Governor Symington:

Enclosed is a copy of the Report on the 1996 Review. Water Quality Standards for Salinity, Colorado River System, approved on June 6, 1996 by the seven-state Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Forum.

Subsequent to the June approval, two regional public meetings were held to provide an opportunity for those who desired to present comments or suggestions on the report. The meetings were held on September 4, 1996 in Phoenix, Arizona, and on September 5, 1996 in Salt Lake City, Utah.

Also enclosed is a copy of the Forum's Supplemental Report which includes modifications to the June report based on comments and suggestions received. The supplement was approved by the Forum on October 23, 1996. The June report and the October supplement constitute the 1996 Review of the water quality standards for salinity of the Colorado River system.

Section 303(c)(1) of the Clean Water Act requires:

The Governor of a State or the State water pollution control agency of such State shall from time to time (but at least once each three-year period beginning with the date of enactment of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act Amendments of 1972) hold public hearings for the purpose of reviewing applicable water quality standards and, as appropriate, modifying and adopting standards. Results of such review shall be available to the Administrator.

The enclosed report and supplement recommend no change in the numeric criteria for salinity, but reflect changes in the plan of implementation previously adopted by the Forum. The Forum urges that each state's water quality control agency adopt the 1996 Review as appropriate, thus preserving the basinwide approach to salinity control developed by the Basin states over the last 24 years. The Forum urges your state to take prompt action in adopting this review.

Sincerely,

William G. Miller
Chairman

enclosure

cc: Arizona Forum Members

Identical transmittal letter to be sent to each of the following:

Honorable Pete Wilson
Governor of California
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

Honorable Roy Romer
Governor of Colorado
State Capitol
Denver, CO 80203

Honorable Robert Miller
Governor of Nevada
State Capitol
Carson City, NV 89701

Honorable Gary Johnson
Governor of New Mexico
State Capitol
Santa Fe, NM 87503

Honorable Mike Leavitt
Governor of Utah
State Capitol
Salt Lake City, UT 84114

Honorable Jim Geringer
Governor of Wyoming
State Capitol
Cheyenne, WY 82002

INTRODUCTION

The Supplemental Report on the 1996 Review, Water Quality Standards for Salinity, Colorado River System, contains statements and comments received by the Forum and the Forum's responses. Statements and comments were received at public meetings held in Phoenix, Arizona on September 4, 1996, and in Salt Lake City, Utah on September 5, 1996. Written comments received by September 5, 1996 were also accepted. This supplement also includes the correction of typographical errors or deletions. All comments or statements received are presented.

STATEMENTS, COMMENTS, AND FORUM RESPONSES

Forum Response

At the two public meetings and through correspondence, the Forum received advice and comment from a number of organizations that are listed as follows:

Imperial Irrigation District (IID)
Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
U.S. Bureau of Land Management
U.S. Department of Agriculture
U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
Utah Division of Water Resources
Utah Board of Water Resources

Some of those entities providing written comment also provided oral commentary at the two meetings. In attendance at the Salt Lake meeting, representing the mining industry in southwestern Wyoming was Wes Nash with the Southwest Wyoming Industrial Association. He did not make formal comment but asked several questions that were answered to his satisfaction at the meeting. The Forum finds that all of the testimony was in support of the salinity control program. The Forum is appreciative of the expression of support and the confirmation given concerning the proposed adoption of the 1996 Review. The Forum finds it is not necessary to comment in this supplemental report on the supportive comments made. They are included as a part of this section of the report for information purposes.

Michael J. Clinton, the General Manager of the IID, appeared at the Phoenix meeting, provided the Forum with written commentary, and provided additional thoughts orally at the meeting. The Forum finds that the IID and Mr. Clinton's comments are supportive of the salinity control program and the adoption of the 1996 Review. However, in written testimony and in oral testimony, four issues were raised that the Forum wishes to respond to in this supplemental report. The Forum appreciates the support of the IID. The four issues raised are capsulized in the following statements:

1. The IID believes that the report indicates that if there had been average hydrology over the last decade, the salinity in the river today would exceed the numeric criteria. Hence, there has not been an implementation of salinity control measures at a pace fast enough to offset man-caused influences since 1972. With this premise, the IID urges the Salinity Control Forum to work for the acceleration of the implementation of salinity control strategies identified in the 1996 Review.
2. The IID commented that water demands have now reached a point where they, at times, equal or exceed supply in the Colorado River drainage, and that further, some water quality strategies are related to water quantity issues. The IID finds that the operation of the Yuma Desalting Plant is of this nature and believes that Reclamation should be in a position to place the Yuma Desalting Plant in full operation in FY 98. The IID requests that the Forum also support the operation of the plant in FY 98.
3. The IID notes that weather modification has been investigated in the past and it has been identified that there can be both water supply and water quality benefits from an increased water supply brought about by weather modification. The IID requests the Forum to again consider including the option of weather modification in an adopted plan of implementation for salinity control.
4. The IID believes that the reports used concerning the damages caused by salinity in the Colorado River Basin are old and outdated. They believe that damages are greater than stated in the reports. The IID urges the Forum to work with Reclamation in updating the damage numbers.

The Forum offers the following response to the four issues brought to the Forum by the IID. First, the Forum does recognize that for the first time in the history of the triennial reviews, the 1996 Review does indicate that with the long-term mean water supply in the system rather than the actual experienced inflows, flow-adjusted salinity concentrations in the river system presently exceed the numeric criteria. The Forum believes the plan of implementation set forth in this report is intended to maintain salinity concentrations at the numeric criteria levels through the year 2015, assuming long-term average hydrology. The Forum believes that the plan of implementation as outlined in this report provides for implementing salinity control measures as fast as reasonably anticipated funding can be obtained from Federal appropriations. However, the Forum recognizes that in the near term there appears to be a shortfall (Table 2-4, 1996 Review) of 418,200 tons per year of existing salinity control. To assist in eliminating this shortfall, the Forum will recommend that Reclamation utilize cost sharing from the Basin funds to supplement Federal appropriations. The Forum will be constantly monitoring the rate of program implementation, formally reviewing this issue every three years, and will be looking for cost-effective ways to accelerate the program so that observed salinity levels will be in compliance with the adopted water quality standards. The Forum notes that in the past, it has urged a more aggressive program than has been funded by the Federal government for the portion of the program the Federal government has the responsibility to implement under Public Law 93-320 as amended (Salinity Control Act). On Page 1-5, Table 1-1 of the 1996 Review report indicates that for the last three fiscal years, with one exception, Federal appropriations for Reclamation, BLM and Agriculture have not equalled the Forum-identified funding need. Past inadequate Federal funding places the program in the position it is in today. The Forum has consistently urged the Administration and the Congress for funding levels adequate to implement the plan of implementation and has pointed out that deferring funding until later years only adds to the ultimate cost of maintaining the water quality standards.

Secondly, the Forum is aware that the non-operational status of the Yuma Desalting Plant results in Reclamation bypassing the Welton Mohawk drain water to the Gulf of California with a resulting loss of water supply to the Colorado River Basin users. However, water supply issues are addressed by the states and the Federal government in meetings specifically called for this purpose by representatives assigned by their governments to represent them on these water supply matters. Forum members, speaking within the capacity of their appointments to the Forum, do not represent the states with respect to water supply issues. Further, water quality issues that arise between the United States and the Republic of Mexico are not a part of Title II of the Salinity Control Act, and those issues with respect to the states' concerns are not formally assigned by their states to the appointed Forum members. The Forum has not felt it appropriate to take formal positions concerning what has been termed Title I activities under the Salinity Control Act. The Forum and its membership, however, are most interested in an appropriate resolution of water quality issues at the border. The Forum, from time to time, has provided Reclamation and the International Boundary and Water Commission an opportunity to converse with representatives of the Basin states at Forum meetings. Further, the Forum has gone on record urging Reclamation to invite state-designated participants to comprehensive sessions held by Reclamation to discuss options with respect to the operation of the Yuma Desalting Plant. The Forum and its members continue to urge Reclamation to convene such meetings and ensure appropriate participation by the Basin states and affected water users.

Thirdly, the Forum recognizes that cloud-seeding and other precipitation augmentation programs have the potential to provide additional water supply at times, and studies have indicated that cloud-seeding may result in reduced salt concentrations in the Colorado River system. The Forum, however, believes that this precipitation management issue is of primary concern to the United States as it might address ways to replace water that has been committed by the Congress, and of concern to the Basin states' representatives assigned by their governors to address water supply issues. If the subject of precipitation management were to be actively discussed by the Federal government and/or state representatives assigned to examine water supply issues, the Forum would become actively involved in examining options that would reduce salinity concentrations in the Colorado River system.

Lastly, the Forum recognizes that the studies used to estimate damages are somewhat outdated and that the current values being used most likely underestimate the actual damages attributable to salinity concentrations in Colorado River water. The Forum has urged Reclamation to update its economic damage estimates. In fact, Reclamation already has studies underway, and the Forum looks forward to reviewing the findings and will share them with IID.



IMPERIAL IRRIGATION DISTRICT

OPERATING HEADQUARTERS • P. O. BOX 937 • IMPERIAL, CALIFORNIA 92251

September 3, 1996

Mr. Jack A. Barnett
Executive Director
Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Forum
106 West 500 South, Suite 101
Bountiful, Utah 84010

Subject: *Comments-1996 Review of Water Quality Standards for Salinity, Colorado River System*

Dear Mr. Barnett: *Jack —*

The Imperial Irrigation District (IID) has examined the *1996 Review of Water Quality Standards for Salinity, Colorado River System (Review)*, dated June 1996, and appreciates being given the opportunity to comment on this document. As the most southerly user of Colorado River waters within the United States, the IID is a primary beneficiary of Colorado River salinity control measures and sincerely supports the efforts of the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Forum (Forum). The IID concurs with the general recommendations set forth in this *Review*, and supports the salinity control measures the Forum has advocated to achieve current and future standards. At this time, the IID also continues to endorse the existing numeric Colorado River salinity criteria and encourages the attainment of these target levels.

However, as the largest and most downstream user of Colorado River waters in both California and the Lower Basin, it is imperative to the IID that the salinity control programs noted in this *Review* not only be implemented, but placed on an accelerated schedule as well. The IID and its agricultural users continue to be damaged due to the increasing salinity of the Colorado River, both by economic losses and the requirement to use more water to sustain an acceptable salt balance. If the current scheduling of planned projects is not expedited, the likelihood of failing to meet targeted salinity standards becomes not only a danger, but a reality. According to this *Review*, when existing *observed* salinity levels are adjusted to reflect the full impact of the current level of water development within the basin (long-term mean water supply), these *adjusted* salinity concentrations exceed the Forum's numeric criteria at all three measurement stations. Of particular concern to the IID are the salinity levels at Imperial Dam (IID's point of diversion), but we obviously have a vested interest in water quality at the two upstream stations as well.

While the goal of the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Program (Program) is ultimately a 1.48 million ton reduction in the salt loading of the Colorado River, the IID does not feel that the pace of the current schedule is adequate to obtain this objective. In fact, based on the analysis outlined in this *Review*, the 1995 Program "backlog" involves controls that would reduce Colorado River salinity by more than 418,000 tons. This is in addition to future controls designed to lower the River's salt load by 437,000 tons over the next twenty years. Thus, according to the *Review*, this translates to a need for "45,000 tons of new salinity control measures . . . each year . . . (until) 2015." Given the current status and recent funding trends of the Program, the IID does not feel that adequate efforts are being put forth to implement additional salinity control projects. The tables that provide exceedance evaluation analyses for the three measurement stations in the *Review* further illustrate this point. The text in Appendix C notes that, with only the existing salinity controls in place, "there is a (sic) 18 percent chance

that salinity may go above 1,000 mg/L at Imperial Dam (and) . . . the mean of 882 mg/L is above the numeric criteria level of 879 mg/L. *This is because there is not currently enough salinity control to offset water development.*" (emphasis added) These figures provide the basis and impetus for the IID's request for an accelerated Program implementation schedule. The Review also notes that, based on available data, "the measured salinity will not exceed the numeric criteria during the next three years". The IID disagrees with this conclusion. The Program allows for temporary increases due to the completion of additional water development projects provided "appropriate control measures" are planned, even if they are not implemented at the time of development. However, the District does not feel that appropriate funding and/or scheduling currently exists to implement these controls.

The potential impact of the Program's failure to achieve targeted goals in a timely manner is staggering. Damages to the Lower Basin will exceed an estimated \$1 billion by 2015 if further salinity control measures are not implemented. The damages to the IID and its agricultural community are briefly documented in the *Review*, and are primarily a result of lower crop yields, increased irrigation management costs, and additional drainage requirements, as well as increased water use required to maintain a salt balance. Also touched upon, and of perhaps even more significance, are the problems that our irrigation district faces as a result of increasingly strict regulatory restrictions on our drain water quality. As the salinity of our inflow waters increase, we also experience a subsequent decrease in drain water quality and ultimately a degradation in the waters of the Salton Sea drainage basin.

While no recent studies have been conducted to pinpoint the true magnitude of the damages resulting from the River's increased salinity, the use of data from previous years (1976-1985) would indicate an annual loss on the order of \$700 million (one-third of which is thought to be agriculturally-based). Due to the age of this data, there also appears to be an urgent need to update this information for the 1986 to 1995 time period in order to develop a more accurate and current estimate of the potential economic impacts resulting from increased salinity levels.

As noted in this *Review*, federal funding has been reduced in recent years (since 1994). Combined with the Program's transition to a basin-wide planning approach, it appears to the IID that the Program is not only off-course, but slowing to a pace that will cause irrevocable harm and economic damage to the IID, its water users, and its surrounding communities. The IID is thankful that the Colorado River Basin's hydrology has been favorable since the Program has gotten off-track, but this can only mitigate the effects of salinity for so long.

It is with great regard to the Forum's past efforts and accomplishments that the IID requests the acceleration of planned salinity control projects and the update of the 1988 Bureau of Reclamation report analyzing the estimated economic impacts of Colorado River salinity. We are well aware of the funding restrictions and difficulties that most public agencies are facing in the current economy, and sincerely appreciate all of the Forum's achievements to date. It is however, in our consumer's best interest to actively promote and encourage the timely attainment of the Forum's targeted salinity goals. Once again, let us thank you for the opportunity to comment on the 1996 *Review* and voice both our support and concern for the existing Program.

Sincerely,



Michael J. Clinton
General Manager

MWD

METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

August 29, 1996


Mr. Jack A. Barnett
Executive Director
Colorado River Basin Salinity
Control Forum
106 West 500 South, Suite 101
Bountiful, Utah 84010

Dear Mr. Barnett:

**1996 Review, Water Quality
Standards for Salinity, Colorado River System**

We have reviewed the report "1996 Review, Water Quality Standards for Salinity, Colorado River System" prepared by the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Forum (Forum). The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (Metropolitan) supports the report's conclusion that the Colorado River numeric criteria need not be revised and its revision of the plan of implementation to maintain the salinity concentrations at or below the numeric criteria. We urge the adoption of the 1996 review by each of the Colorado River Basin states. Metropolitan appreciated the opportunity to review the Forum's 1996 report.

Very truly yours,


Duane B. Georgeson
Executive Assistant to
the General Manager

JPM:rbs

cc: Mr. Gerald R. Zimmerman
Executive Director
Colorado River Board of California
770 Fairmont Avenue, Suite 100
Glendale, California 91203-1035

Mr. Walter G. Pettit
Executive Director
State Water Resources Control Board
P. O. Box 100
Sacramento, California 95801



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION VIII

999 18th STREET - SUITE 500
DENVER, COLORADO 80202-2466

SEP 3 1996

Ref: 8EPR-EP

Mr. William J. Miller, Chairman
Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Forum
New Mexico Interstate Stream Commission
Bataan Memorial Building, Room 101
State Capitol
P.O. Box 25102
Santa Fe, NM 87504-5102

Dear Mr. Miller:

We are writing to commend the Forum and the Forum's work group for their efforts in preparing the 1996 Review of the Water Quality Standards for Salinity - Colorado River System.

EPA feels that the document is now much clearer with respect to potential exceedences that may occur as a result of various hydrologic sequences. This is especially evident in the information presented in Appendix C. Those who read the Review will come away with a better understanding of the problems of salinity in the Colorado River. The Review does a good job of portraying the fact that salinity control is needed and that the program is worthwhile. We encourage the Forum to continue efforts in the future to keep the public fully informed regarding potential salinity conditions that could arise in the Colorado River.

We are pleased that our concerns were addressed and look forward to further progress in lowering the levels of salinity in the Colorado River in the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Max H. Dodson".

Max H. Dodson
Assistant Regional Administrator
Office of Ecosystems Protection
and Remediation





United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
National Applied Resource Sciences Center
Denver Federal Center, Building 50
P.O. Box 25047
Denver, Colorado 80225-0047

IN REPLY
REFER TO:

7240 (RS-140)

JUL 25 1996

Mr. Jack Barnett
Executive Director
Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Forum
106 West 500 South, Suite 101
Bountiful, Utah 84010

Dear Mr. Barnett:

Thank you for your recent letter and copy of the 1996 Review. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) supports the findings of the 1996 Review: Water Quality Standards for Salinity, Colorado River System. We concur with the Forum's decision not to revise established standards for salinity of the Colorado River System.

BLM is committed to doing its part in finding cost-effective solutions to the salt-loading of the Colorado River, and we want to continue our salinity partnership with the Basin States, the Bureau of Reclamation, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture to reduce salt yield from public lands.

Our participation in the 1996 Review has helped us to better understand the Basin States' analysis of hydrologic and water-use changes that have occurred since 1993. Salt-load reduction is an important water quality objective to which many BLM programs and partners can contribute. We look forward to working with the Forum and others to carry out the planned salinity control measures.

If you have any questions, please call Eric Janes at (303) 236-0147.

Sincerely,

Lee Barkow, Director
National Applied Resource
Sciences Center

cc: Director 400, MIB, Rm 5650
BOR, UCR, Trueman
USDA, NRCS, Mason



OCT 29 1996

OCT 24 1996

Mr. Jack A. Barnett
Executive Director
Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Forum
106 West 500 South, Suite 101
Bountiful, Utah 84010

Dear Mr. Barnett:

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) of the Department of Agriculture (USDA) is pleased to provide comments on the 1996 Review of the Water Quality Standards for Salinity in the Colorado River System.

NRCS has been an active partner in working with other Federal agencies and the basin States to accomplish the plan of implementation for the Colorado River Basin in complying with the established water quality standards of the Clean Water Act.

NRCS concurs with the 1996 Review and is ready to continue working with farmers and ranchers to implement cost-effective practices to achieve the goals stated in the 1996 Review's plan of implementation.

In April 1996, the Federal Agriculture Improvement Reform Act (the 1996 Act) combined the functions of several USDA conservation programs, including the Colorado River Salinity Control Program, into a new program known as the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP).

It is anticipated that the functions of the Colorado River Salinity Control Program will continue through the implementation of EQIP.

NRCS looks forward to continuing USDA's relationship with the Forum to achieve the necessary salinity control efforts in the Colorado River Basin in meeting the 1996 Review's established water quality standards.

Sincerely,

PAUL W. JOHNSON
Chief



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

Upper Colorado Regional Office
125 South State Street, Room 6107
Salt Lake City, Utah 84138-1102

IN REPLY REFER TO:

UC-228
RES-9.00

SEP 26 1996

Mr. Jack Barnett
Executive Director, FORUM
106 West 500 South, Suite 101
Bountiful UT 84010

Subject: 1996 Review, Water Quality Standards for Salinity (Salinity)

Dear Mr. Barnett:

Thank you for the opportunity to participate in the 1996 Review, Water Quality Standards for Salinity, Colorado River System. As you know, the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) is responsible for coordinating salinity control activities within the Department of the Interior, the Department of Agriculture, and other Federal and State agencies. In that capacity, Reclamation has cooperated with the Colorado River Salinity Control Forum (Forum) in providing various data and analyses found in the 1996 review.

Reclamation believes that the Forum's basinwide approach to controlling salt loading is the most logical and workable means of maintaining salinity levels in the lower Colorado River Basin at or below the established numeric criteria while water resources development continues throughout the basin.

Reclamation appreciates having had the opportunity to work with the Forum in this endeavor and looks forward to continuing in this capacity in the future.

Sincerely,

David Trueman
Salinity Program Manager

Statement of

D. Larry Anderson

to

The Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Forum

My name is Larry Anderson, and I am the Director of the Utah Division of Water Resources and Interstate Streams Commissioner for Utah. I also represent Utah as a member of the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Forum and have served as chair of the Forum in the past.

The State of Utah, through the Divisions of Water Resources and Water Quality supports the efforts of the forum and has actively provided technical assistance to this worthy effort. Landowner interest and participation in the salinity control activities in the Colorado River Basin portion of Utah has been outstanding. Utah looks forward to the continuation of this important work in improving water quality for water users in Utah as well as downstream users. As tangible evidence of Utah's support, the Utah Board of Water Resources has provided funding to meet non-federal portions of some of the salinity control efforts and intends to continue this practice.

Utah has examined the "1996 REVIEW - WATER QUALITY STANDARDS FOR SALINITY COLORADO RIVER SYSTEM" and concurs that there is no need to modify the standards at this time. Utah also supports the plan of implementation and urges the United States Congress to provide sufficient funds to proceed with the plan of implementation in order to meet the treaty water quality obligations of the United States to Mexico on the Colorado River as well as the water quality objectives of the Clean Water Act. These obligations are federal in nature and Utah would like to remind Congress and the federal agencies of their responsibility to provide the resources necessary to meet these obligations.

RESOLUTION
of the
UTAH BOARD OF WATER RESOURCES
on the
WATER QUALITY STANDARDS REVIEW
of the
COLORADO RIVER BASIN SALINITY CONTROL FORUM

WHEREAS, the triennial review of water quality standards for the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Program has been prepared by the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Forum distributed for public review and comment; and

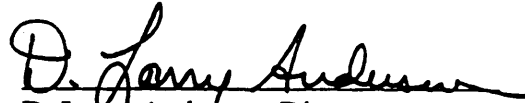
WHEREAS, issues of water quality in the Colorado River basin in Utah are very important to the State of Utah; and

WHEREAS, the Forum finds the current water quality standards to be sufficient to meet the goals of the Salinity Control Act and recommends no changes to the standards; and

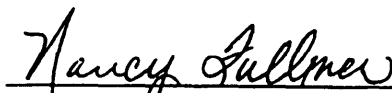
NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Water Resources supports the findings of the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Forum in the *"1996 REVIEW WATER QUALITY STANDARDS FOR SALINITY, COLORADO RIVER SYSTEM"* and encourages the United States Congress to fund the Salinity Control programs at levels sufficient to maintain the standards and meet the numeric criteria as set forth in the plan of implementation in the report.

* * * * *

Resolution passed unanimously by the Board of Water Resources on September 20, 1996.


D. Larry Anderson, Director

Attest:


Nancy Fullmer, Admin. Secretary

CORRECTIONS

The Forum, having adopted the 1996 Review in June of 1996, now finds that with the publication of a supplemental report in October of 1996, there is opportunity to identify any corrections that the Forum has determined need to be made to the originally adopted report.

The first change to the report is not really a correction to the report but is more appropriately identified as an update. On Page 1-5, Table 1-1, and again on Page 6-4, Table 6-1 of the 1996 Review, it is identified that in FY 96 the Department of Agriculture (USDA) had available for expenditure for the salinity control program \$2,681,000. That is the amount of money that was appropriated by the Congress under the line-item authorized by amendments to the Salinity Control Act in 1984. In 1996, the Congress passed and the President signed the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act (1996 Farm Bill). There are provisions in the 1996 Farm Bill for the creation of a new program which has been titled the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) that will allow for several conservation programs to be operated under one authorization, including the Department of Agriculture's portion of the salinity control program. There is to be appropriated each year, starting in FY 97, \$200 million for the EQIP program. However, in an effort to get the new EQIP program started before FY 97, interim funding was made available to the administrators in the Department of Agriculture and there was allocated additional funds to the salinity control program. There was spent during the summer of 1996, subsequent to the publishing of the 1996 Review by the Forum, an additional \$3,569,000 for on-farm salinity control measures in the State of Colorado, \$2,225,000 in the State of Utah, and \$686,000 in the State of Wyoming. The total EQIP appropriation and expenditure for the salinity control program in FY 96 was \$6,480,000. That combined with the \$2,681,000 appropriated under the original authorization provides for a total expenditure for the USDA component of the program of \$9,161,000 in FY 96, and that number would be a more appropriate number to consider when reviewing Table 1-1 on Page 1-5 and also when reviewing Table 6-1 on Page 6-4.

For several years, the Congress has identified in their appropriation measures that \$800,000 is to be spent specifically on salinity control efforts. It has been known, however, that through several programs, funding has allowed for land management practices that reduce salt loading from the public lands managed by BLM. Quantification of this effort has been difficult and long in coming. Subsequent to the preparation of the 1996 Review, BLM has estimated that, in addition to the \$800,000 spent, in 1995 \$3,620,000 has been spent on salinity controlling practices in six states by BLM, and that effort has controlled about 15,000 tons of salt from nonpoint sources. Although these numbers are from early estimates and subject to change, it is believed that they more correctly reflect the magnitude of BLM's current efforts in salinity control than does the number in Table 1-1 on Page 1-5 and Table 6-1 on Page 6-4 in the 1996 Review.

In the form of an update, the reader is referred to page 1-5 and Table 1-1 wherein it is identified that \$8,205,000 is available for Reclamation to spend in FY 96. Of that amount, \$500,000 was appropriated by the Congress to be spent under a newly authorized basin-wide program with the passage of P.L. 104-20. That new program is briefly described on Page 3-4 of the Review. Subsequent to the June adoption of the 1996 Review, Reclamation awarded to the Hammond Conservancy District a contract for the full \$500,000 to line canals and reduce salt load to the river at a very cost effective rate, estimated to be about \$15 annually per ton of salt.

The following typographical or grammatical errors have been noted in the 1996 Review. Water Quality Standards For Salinity, Colorado River System, June 1996. They are as follows:

Page 2-3: On Figure 2-1, in the upper left-hand corner, monitoring stations are identified and the fifth monitoring station listed should be changed from "Whiter" to "White".

Page 2-9: Above Figure 2-5, the title should read "Historic Flow-Adjusted Salinity at Parker".

Page 2-9: Footnote 12, "No. 1 through 17" should read "Nos. 1 through 17".

Page 3-2: In the first line of the last paragraph, the number "303^(c)" should be changed to "303(c)".

Page 3-6: In the last full paragraph on the fifth line, the word "to-date" should be changed to "to date".

Page 4-2: The top subtotal in Table 4-1 should be changed from "375,480" to "375,500".

Page 4-9: In the third paragraph on the fifth line, the word "a" should be inserted between the word "be" and the word "significant".

Page 4-11: In the fourth full paragraph on the sixth line, the last word of the line should be changed from "cause" to "causes".

Page 4-11: In the first line of the fifth paragraph, the word "Flathead" should be changed to "Flat Top".

Page 5-11: In the last line of the fourth paragraph, the words "implements" should be changed to the word "implement".